

OWINGSVILLE

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Kentucky will have to do better than that or suffer a destructive deterioration of citizenship and depreciation of property.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Grango City.
J. M. Rigdon and wife are the parents of a son, born Dec. 15.

Mrs. A. D. Rawlings was in Flemingsburg Saturday.

Miss Addie Newman is much improved from her illness.

Dr. W. O. Phillips, of Cincinnati, visited his wife and son Monday.

Mrs. L. E. Newman and sister Miss Lellie Wilcox were in Flemingsburg shopping Thursday.

Mrs. A. W. Jones, of Odessa, visited her sister, Mrs. L. S. Ratliff Friday.

T. R. Ratliff and wife were in Flemingsburg Friday.

Due to the inclement weather, the school of Hillsboro, Ky., was postponed here this week.

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Judith of the Plains

By MARY MANNING.
Author of "Lord Althamham, Bankrupt."
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The first, almost a perfect replica of the dead man's, looked at him.

"I bring you greeting from my brother," she said. "He has gone on a long journey."

Henderson started. Through the still room ran the murmur, "Henderson's out!" And Judith, his dazed sister, had come with his greeting to Henderson, leader of the faction against him.

The first had turned. The applause that is ever the meed of the winner was hers to command. The life faction were ready to sing the praises of her splendid audacity. In their hearts they were glad in the thought that Jim had outwitted them.

Mime's low dashed across the stage, and he dashed from the little brown fiddle music that again made them merry and glowing. The magic came back to the dance, the blood leaped again with the merry madness, and they swept to the bowing like leaves before the first faint wail of winter cries in the trees.

Hamilton, standing apart with Kitty Colbourne, had been a dazed witness of the scene. With the rest he had watched the entrance of Judith, and he had been stunned by the change in her appearance, had seen her triumph and heard the rumor of Jim's escape, and his heart had warmed with the joy of her success. She had taken the plan and had come tonight, in the joy of her triumph, to hunt in their faces that she had outwitted them. And she had paid the penalty of her courage—her own life.

What a woman! What a woman in all the world for him, though his blind eyes had faced the light for years and had not known it. He had squandered his life in the pursuit of a little while light and had not marked the serene shining of the moon.

"And a man there was and he made his prayer," he quoted to himself. Well, that was true. He had not been a coward. He had not been a coward from here. She could take her place in his family and reflect credit on his choice. His family, his friends—his life, in the thought of his possible death and the thought of his possible escape from his enemies, that Alida and she might earn the pitance that would give the children the "clean start" that Jim had not had on his confident.

And she must dance and be the merriest of them all that these things might happen, but again and again she deferred the dread moment. The light, the music, the shuffle of the feet, came to her as she stood frozen in the grateful darkness.

Judith drew close to the window, and the merriest struck chill at her heart like the tolling of a knell. She saw the pale face of Henderson gleam yellow-white among the dancers, and, watching him, the blood left of the Indian woke in her heart. The rest of the room was but a blur. The dancers came like the wind, and she saw nothing but Henderson as he danced that he might forget the gray of morning, the black, dead trees and the grotesque thing with head away that haunted the dance floor like a nightmare.

He danced the long, black ride that would bring him to his camp, for he alone of the lynchers remained. Something was drawing his gaze out to her.

Mrs. J. E. Carmichael and daughter Miss Mary, of Stephentown, were guests of Mrs. M. L. Jones Friday and Saturday.

Miss May Swann's school closed last Saturday with a nice treat for the pupils, and several nice prizes were given by her.

J. S. Anderson and W. T. Garner bought M. A. Garner's tobacco crop at 8c, Ed Garner's at 8c, Jonathan Markland's at 10c with \$5 on the crop.

G. W. Boyd is able to be up the most of the time now.

John L. Vice bought J. F. Jones' crop of tobacco last week at 10c, Geo. W. Boyd's and tenants' all at 10c, J. W. and Chas. Darnell's at 11c.

Miss Ada Powell, of Fairview, is the guest of her grandparents, J. W. Darnell and wife this week.

THE PROVIDENTIAL POSSUM.—Almost unconsciously he opened the door and walked up to the old manger half filled with straw, where the chickens were wont to wallow. As he approached, a dull gleam of something white in the far corner attracted his eye.

"I believe my soul one day will be as white as the snow on the mountain," he murmured, as he hurriedly reached hand in the manger.

A howl, a backward tumble, and Uncle Jack was sitting on the floor nursing a lacerated finger.

"Dat aine good tof, or else dey's a rat or weasel long side it."

Cautionally he approached the manger and peered in, closer and closer, until with a swift and more dextrous movement than one would have deemed him capable of, he jerked something out and held it at arm's length—something furry and soft, of a mingled white and gray color, with round gray eyes, long, sharp nose, and wicked little white teeth.

Uncle Jack's cracked old voice sounded forth such a shout of delight that it reached Narcisse in the kitchen, and she gained the door in time to see the old man almost bounding up the path, swinging his captive in one hand, his bald head glistening in the sun.

He was entirely out of breath and incapable of speech, but no words were needed from him. Aunt Narcisse was equal to the emergency.

"Fo' de goodness sake, Andrew Jackson Peyton, has you got a possum? Yo' has to 'sho'. Hallelujah! De Lawd ain't forgot us after all. An' dat's what de bin an' carried off dem pullets! But I ain't mind' about de pullets now; de's nowhite to 'possum meat. Dere's no kin' of eatin' dat des melts in de mouf lak 'possum."—The December Metropolitan.

CHEAP AT THE PRICE.—"What reckless spendthrifts the American millionaires are. Here is one who paid \$40,000 for an old painting."

"That's nothing. I know one who paid \$20,000 for the photograph of a chorus girl."

"You don't say so?"

"Yes. She was sitting on his lap when it was taken."—Cleveland Leader.

And nothing is calculated to give a self-made man a harder jolt than a bill of fare in French.

GOVERNMENT WAGES LOW.

H. T. Newcomb Gives Facts of Interest to Wage Earners.

From 1896 to 1904 the average retail cost of the ordinary articles of food and clothing advanced no more than 17 per cent (1896, to be more exact, the cost of the purchaser of food for a family had to pay \$1.17 in 1904 for the same quantity and quality of food that \$1 would purchase in 1896. These are official statistics compiled by the highly skilled experts employed by the federal government, and every housewife knows that they do not overstate the advance. Other necessities of life have advanced in cost with approximately equal rapidity.

Unquestionably wages ought, generally speaking, to have advanced somewhat in proportion to the increase in the cost of living. In private employment this has apparently taken place, the average wages per hour reported by the federal bureau of labor being 17.20 per cent higher in 1904 than in 1896 and the average weekly earnings 12.75 per cent higher. The advances thus represented are spread all over the country; they characterize every private industrial enterprise and have benefited as a class of workers employed in private undertakings.

How is it with public employment? A few undertakings conducted under public ownership employ labor like that of the private enterprise, and in these cases the public rate of wages has slowly been advanced somewhat in proportion to the advance in the wages privately paid. But where the American government, municipal, state or national, is the sole or by far the largest employer of a particular class of labor the advances to meet increased cost of living have been so few that the ordinary investigator will be unable to discover a single instance.

Throughout the postal service, among the 25,000 clerical employees at Washington, in the customs and internal revenue services there have been no advances in pay to meet the rise in the cost of food, clothing and shelter. The pay of letter carriers, for example, remains precisely \$20 a month, as was fixed twenty years ago by an act approved on Jan. 3, 1887.

The largest printing office in the world is that maintained at Washington by the government, and there the federal government employs a large force of intelligent and highly skilled workmen. A change in the basis of payment in 1890 from the piece work to the per hour basis prevented comparisons with dates prior to the change, but wages have remained stationary since March 3, 1890, although the official statistics report that the cost of food has risen since that date 12.25 per cent. During the same years the wages of printers in private book publishing or job printing establishments advanced throughout the United States as follows: Compositors, male, 14.67 per cent; compositors, female, 20.33 per cent; press feeders, male, 22.41 per cent; press feeders, female, 21.27 per cent; pressmen, 11.75 per cent.—H. T. Newcomb.

DO YOU OWN A HORSE?

Electric Light Plants Are Like Horses in Some Respects.

The subject of depreciation is well worthy of the careful consideration of those who are prone to ignore the fact in estimating the cost of lights supplied by municipal plants. But as more people own horses than lighting plants it may be helpful to consider depreciation as applied to horses.

You pay \$250 for a five-year-old horse. That's original cost. If you have the money you must pay interest on it. If you don't borrow it you pay the interest you would get if you didn't buy the horse. Either way it's interest. You feed the horse, and perhaps hire a man to take care of him. That's operating expenses. You get him shod occasionally and call in the veterinarian when he is sick. That's repairs. After a few years, in spite of the best of care, the horse is no longer capable of doing the required work and it is sold for \$200 as a hack. He is compared with the original cost. That's depreciation. If you haven't laid that by year by year out of the horse's earnings, you've got to borrow it to buy a new horse and you may find it easy to do so if you haven't repaid the original loan. That's what happens to municipal plants that don't provide an adequate depreciation fund.

LONG LIVE THE OSS!

Municipal Ownership Would Make His Political Campaigns.

Referring to the recent announcement that 51,146 persons are on the payroll of New York city, the Newark Advertiser declares that in the event of municipal ownership of street railways, electric light and gas plants, ferries and other public utilities the city employees would constitute a political army that would make a change of administration impossible.

It recalls the fact that 25,000 city employees in Philadelphia kept Philadelphia in the hands of the corrupt Duhrum machine for years, and only a great popular uprising overthrew the grafters.

If Duhrum had had control of the street railways and other public utilities in Philadelphia through municipal ownership, it is observed, the graft could have been kept at bay by the grafters. He would have been as absolute in his authority as the czar.

The point is well taken. In other cities the political situation under public ownership would be as it would in Philadelphia and New York.

Bosses may be overthrown and grafters turned out whenever the public will it at present, but the ownership of all public utilities would end this. It would bind the people hand and foot and deliver them into the hands of political grafters.—Long Branch Record.

Caroleen, Nat. Grant.

At a local government board inquiry held at West Ham, London, to sanction the borrowing by the corporation of £2,300 for electricity extensions it was stated that the above-mentioned undertaking up to the present had resulted in a loss of £1,206, which had been charged to the rates. The inspector pointed out that loans of some thousands of pounds had been sanctioned by the board for purchasing various machines, and he found the council again asking for money to buy machinery for which they had already received the cash.—Morning Post.

The movement for municipal ownership in this country is a hunt by the demagogue for a new issue to catch votes.—Melvin O. Adams.

Some men are able to bear misfortunes and some others have sense enough to avoid them.

HOW TO SHOW A PROFIT.

Tricky Bookkeeping Puts Losses on the Profit Side.

The printed report of a municipal electric light plant in Indiana has just been received. It shows a profit. There is no question about it. It shows a large profit. The figures are there in black and white, and they show a profit equivalent to 20 per cent of the gross income and 18 per cent on the capital invested. That is what we call a profitable business.

How was this plant able to make so good a showing? In a way, a simple way, that any municipal plant could copy. It was successful in its superintending, in its management, in its operation, in its accounting. That is what we call a profitable business.

In the first place the charges for interest on the capital invested and for depreciation were entirely ignored. Then no allowance was made for taxes lost by having municipal instead of private ownership. Next, waste fuel charge was made against the water department and the city office for lights and supplies, the superintendent consequently forgot to charge the water plant with the water used in its boilers and condensers or with the share of the salaries in the city accounting department. Insurance was also overlooked. Finally, the depreciation of profit doubly sure, a number of items properly pertaining to maintenance were charged to "new construction."

At the same time the charges for street and public building lights was quite as high as in surrounding cities served by private companies, which had somehow or other to provide for all these omitted items.

It is perhaps needless to add that except for the judicious way in which the superintendent prepared his report a considerable deficit would have appeared instead of the gratifying profits. Of course the taxpayers will have to provide the money to make good these paper profits, but they may not for some years see the connection between their profitable plant and the higher tax rate, and meanwhile they will have the contemplation of its profits and will doubtless testify enthusiastically to the benefits of municipal ownership.

From the above we may deduce the following rule for showing a profit. First, omit all items of expense that can without too much danger of detection be saddled upon the general tax list or other departments; second, charge in as many expenses as possible to new construction as many items of maintenance as may be necessary to show a large profit. (N. B.—The profit must be large to provide for the contingency of some day when the cost of doing one or more of the concealed items of expense and ruthlessly dragging them forth from their hiding places.)

If the above rule is scrupulously followed there seems to be no reason why every municipal plant should not show a profit.—Concerning Municipal Ownership.

THE CASH BOY TALKS.

His Father's Idea of the Delights of Municipal Ownership.

"Ray, loss," remarked our cash boy this morning, "my paw is not hot for municipal ownership. I don't know what that is, but paw says everybody is going to own everything and divide up the money. He was telling me about it last night."

"Ma asked him where the people would get the money to buy these things, as they would cost millions of dollars."

"Paw said, 'Isse bonds.'"

"Yes," said Ma, "but how will you pay the bonds when they are due?"

"Isse more bonds," said paw. "But how about the interest?" said Ma. "Wot? You have to tax the people for that?"

"Why, no," said paw. "Pay the interest with bonds."

"I don't see how you could do that," said Ma.

"You don't," replied paw. "Now, when